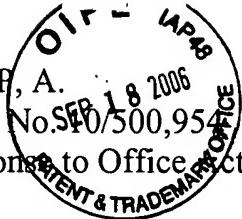


SHIPP, A.
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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, after the title, insert the following heading:

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

Some internet service providers (ISP) offer anti-virus scanning, of attachments to e-mails, and file-downloads and transfers, as a value-added service to their clients. A conventional method of anti-virus scanning is to scan the file looking for patterns or sequences of bytes which have been established as being a characteristic "signature" of a known virus. However, signature-based scanning is not ideal in the rapidly changing internet environment particularly if it is used as the sole virus detection method. When an outbreak of a previously-unknown virus occurs, anti-virus specialists have first to identify a suitable signature to characterise the virus and this then has to be disseminated to anti-virus scanners in the field, all of which takes time. Another disadvantage is that file-scanning can be very resource-intensive, particularly where file traffic volumes are high. The system needs to have enough processing power and file-buffering capacity to keep delays to a minimum and to cope with peak demands.

On page 2, after line 16, insert the following heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

On page 2, after line 19, insert the following heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXAMPLE EMBODIMENTS

On page 6, line 1, please replace the heading with the following amended heading:

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I CLAIM: CLAIMS